CONFIDENTIAL SY0134

197

PAGE 01 KABUL 03434 01 OF 02 0511322
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ADS-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05
SY-05 SYE-00 /103 W

067844 051228Z /53

P R 050700Z MAY 79
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
ASUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
CINCPAC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 3.09.87
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

OFFICE OF SECURITY
MAY 7 1979
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS STAFF

(R)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 3434

KARACHI FOR RSO

E. O. 12065: GDS 5/5/85 (FLATIN, BRUCE A.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR ASEC AF, US, SHUM
SUBJECT: (LOU) THE DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS AND ITS EFFECT ON US-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: KABUL 3298 (NOTAL)

1. (LOU) SUMMARY: DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH WESTERN AND COMMUNISTCORRESPONDENTS ON APRIL 30, AGHANISTAN'S PRESIDENT NOOR MOHAMMAD TARAKI WAS ASKED INTER ALIAN QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FEBRUARY 14 ABDUCTION AND DEATH OF AMBASSADOR ADOLPH DUBS. TARAKI DENIED THAT THE TERRORISTS HAD DEMANDED THE RELEASE OF A JAILED SHI'A LEADER IN EXCHANGE FOR AMBASSADOR DUBS. OBSERVING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 03434 01 OF 02 0511322

THAT THE DEATH OF THE FOUR TERRORISTS LEFT NO ONE FOR THE AFGHAN AUTHORITIES TO INTERROGATE, TARAKI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS REGIME HAD, AS YET, BEEN UNABLE TO "PROBE THE REAL MOTIVE BEHIND THE MURDER." HE THEN STATED THE KHALQI CONVICTION THAT THE EVEN WAS Z "CONSPIRACY OF OUR ENEMIES AIMED AT CUTTING OFF THE AID WHICH THE UNITED SATES WAS THEN GIVING US." MENTIONING HIS APRIL 27 DISCUSSION WITH THE AMERICAN CHARGE' D'AFFAIRES ABOUT THE NEED TO "ERASE THE MISUNDERSTAING" BETWEEN THE U.S. AND AFGAHNISTAN (REFTEL), TARAKI DECLARED THAT THE AFGHAN AUTHORITIES WILL NOT CEASE IN THEIR TRACKING DOWN OF THE "PERPETRATOR OF THIS CRIME."

THAT THE DEATH OF THE FOUR TERRORISTS LEFT NO ONE FOR THE AFGHAN AUHORITIES TO INTERROGATE, TARAKI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS REGIME HAD, AS YET, BEEN UNABLE TO "PROBE THE REAL MOTIVE BEHIND THE MURDER." HE THEN STATED THE KHALQI CONVICTION THAT THE EVEN WAS Z "CONSPIRACY OF OUR ENEMIES AIMED AT CUTTING OFF THE AID WHICH THE UNITED SATES WAS THEN GIVING US." MENTIONING HIS APRIL 27 DISCUSSION WITH THE AMERICAN CHARGE' D'AFFAIRES ABOUT THE NEED TO "ERASE THE MISUNDERSTAING" BETWEEN THE U.S. AND AFGAHNISTAN (REFTEL), TARAKI DECLARED THAT THE AFGHAN AUTHORITIES WILL NOT CEASE IN THEIR TRACKING DOWN OF THE "PERPETRATOR OF THIS CRIME," EVEN IF IT TAKES "TWENTY YEARS." IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE USG HAS REPEATEDLY MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE DUBS AFFAIR WAS ONLY ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE REDUCTION IN AMERICAN AID HERE# TARAKI TOLD THE NEWSMEN THAT THE KHALQI LEADERSHIP BELIEVES THAT IT WAS THIS INCIDENT THAT CAUSED THE USG TO RETALIATE OBSERVING: "IF THIS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE CASE, THE US WOULD HAVE CUT ITS AID EARLIER. AS IT WAS CUT AFTER THIS INCIDENT, HOW COULD WE (OTHERWISE) INTERPRET IT?" END OF SUMMARY.

2. (U) THERE FOLLOWS OFFICIAL TEXTOF SELECTED PORTIONS OF THE TARAKI PRESS CONFERENCE EXCHANGE, AS PUBLISHED IN THE MAY 3 EDITION OF THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED "KABUL TIMES:"

"WASHINGTON POST:

Q. YOU SAID THAT IN AFGHANISTAN NO RELIGIOUS LEADER HAS BEEN JAILED OR IF ANYBODY IS IN JAIL IT IS NOT ON THE BASIS OF RELIGION BUT THAT ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN OPPOSING THE SAUR REVOLUTION AND ARE ITS ENEMIES HAVE BEEN JAILED. WOULD YOU BE KIND ENOUGH TO GIVE SOME FURTHER EXPLANATION IN THIS REGARD?

"I HAVE PUT THIS QUESTION BECAUSE THOSE WHO HAD KIDNAPPED THE US

AMBASSADOR IN KABUL HAD DEMANDED THE RELEASE OF A SHI'ITE LEADER IN JAIL.

"A. I REPEAT THAT WE WILL NOT AND HAVE NOT JAILED ANYBODY ON THE BASIS OF RELIGION. WHOEVER STANDS AGAINST OUR REVOLUTION -- WHOEVER HE MAY BE -- WE WILL PUT HIM IN JAIL AND WILL REALLY PUNISH HIM. (THIS WAS THE REPLY TO ONE QUESTION.)

"YOU SAID THAT DUBS WAS KIDNAPPED SO THAT A SHI'ITE LEADER COULD BE FREED. THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN TOLD TO YOU - THE TERRORISTS. THEY DID NOT TELL US. THEY TOOK THE NAME OF SOMEBODY KNOWN AS BAHES# WHO WAS NEITHER A SHI'ITE, NOR WAS HE IN AFGHANISTAN. THUS THE QUESTION OF HIS BEING SHI'ITE NEVER AROSE. WE HAVE NOT JAILED ANYBODY IN THE NAME OF HIS BEING [illegible] IT WAS NEVER BEEN TOLERABLE

AMBASSADOR IN KABUL HAD DEMANDED THE RELEASE OF A SHI'ITE LEADER IN JAIL.

"A. I REPEAT THAT WE WILL NOT AND HAVE NOT JAILED ANYBODY ON THE BASIS OF RELIGION. WHOEVER STANDS AGAINST OUR REVOLUTION -- WHOEVER HE MAY BE -- WE WILL PUT NKM IN JAIL AND WILL REALLY PUNISH HIM. (THIS WAS THE REPLY TO ONE QUESTION.)

"YOU SAID THAT DUBS WAS KIDNAPPED SO THAT A SHI'ITE LEADER COULD BE FREED. THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN TOLD TO YOU BY THE TERRORISTS. THEY DID NOT TELL US. THEY TOOK THE NAME OF SOMEBODY KNOWN AS BAHES# WHO WAS NEITHER A SHI'ITE, NOR WAS HE IN AFGHANISTAN. THUS THE QUESTION OF HIS BEING SHI'ITE NEVER AROSE. WE HAVE NOT JAILED ANYBODY IN THE NAME OF HIS BEING SHI'ITE OR UNDER ANY OTHER NAME. IT HAS NEVER BEEN TOLERABLE IN AFGHANISTAN TO IMPRISON ANYBODY ON THE PRETEXT OF HIS BEING SHI'I OR SUNNIT ON A RACIAL BASIS OR UNDER ANY OTHER COVER.

"WASHINGTON POST:"

"Q. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK SOMETHING ABOUT THE KIDNAP AND MURDER OF THE US AMBASSADOR. DID YOU REACH ANY CONCLUSION? DID THE SARANDOY (POLICE) OR OTHER STATE ORGANS DRAW ANY CONCLUSION, AND, IF SO WAS THIS COMMUNICATED TO THE US EMBASSY IN KABUL?

A. ALL THE FOUR PERSONS WERE KILLED. WE HAD NO ONE TO INTERROGATE.

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 3434

KARACHI FOR RSS

"FINANCIAL TIME:

"Q. CONCERNING THE KIDNAP AND MURDER OF THE US AMBASSADOR, YOU HAVE SAID THAT THE DECESAED AMBASSADOR WAS KIDNAPPED AND MURDERED BY FOUR PERSONS WHO WERE ALSO KILLED CONSEQUENTLY. DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE MATTER IS CLOSED WITH YOU. THE NEXT PART OF MY QUESTION IS: DID AN INVESTIGATION TAKE PLACE AFTER THIS OR NOT?

"A. WE WERE VERY MUCH INTERESTED TO FIND IT OUT BUT REGRETFULLY WE WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL IN PROBING THE REAL MOTIVE BEHIND HIS MURDER. WE CAN SAY ONE THING, AND THAT IS THAT THE CONSPIRACY OF OUR ENEMIES WAS AIMED AT CUTTING OFF

CONFIDENTIAL

T

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 03434 02 OF 02 051111Z

THE AID WHICH UNITED STATES WAS GIVING US; WE ARE STILL PROBING IT. LAST NIGHT (COMMENT: ACTUALLY, APRIL 27) AT A RECEPTION, I TOLD THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF UNITED STATES TO MAKE EFFORTS TO ERASE THE MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND UNITED STATES. WE WILL FIND OUT THE MOTIVE BEHIND THE KILLING OF THE US AMBASSADOR DUBS EVEN IF IT TAKES 20 YEARS. WE WILL NOT CEASE TRACKING THIS CASE AND THE PERPETRATOR OF THIS CRIME WILL BE BROUGHT TO BOOK."

"ASSOCIATED PRESS:

"Q. DO YOU THINK THE ASSISTANCE WHICH THE UNITED STATES USED TO GIVE AFGHANISTAN HAS NOW BEEN SUSPENDED AS THE RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT AND THAT UNITED STATES WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THE CONCERNED AUTHORITIES OF AFGHANISTAN HAD NOT TAKEN APPROPRIATE MEASURES RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF US AMBASSADOR?

"A. I WOULD SAY THAT THE SECURITY FORCES HAD DONE THE MAXIMUM# AND WE DID OUR LEVEL BEST TO RESCUE HIM; UNFORTUNATELY OUR ENEMIES WHO ARE ALSO THE ENEMIES OF UNITED STATES WERE SUCCESSFUL AND THEY AIMED AT CREATING MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US WITH THE MURDER OF THE AMBASSADOR.

"Q. IS THE DISCONTINUATION OF US AID THE RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT?

"A. IF THIS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE CASE, THE US WOULD HAVE CUT ITS AID EARLIER. AS IT WAS CUT AFTER THIS INCIDENT, HOW COULD WE (OTHERWISE) INTERPRET IT?"

3. (C) COMMENT: TARAKI'S COMMENTS REFLECT THE WIDESPREAD BELIEF IN KABUL THAT THE REDUCTION IN US AID WAS A DIRECT

"ASSOCIATED PRESS:

"Q. DO YOU THINK THE ASSISTANCE WHICH THE UNITED STATES USED TO GIVE AFGHANISTAN HAS NOW BEEN SUSPENDED AS THE RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT AND THAT UNITED STATES WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THE CONCERNED AUTHORITIES OF AFGHANISTAN HAD NOT TAKEN APPROPRIATE MEASURES RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF US AMBASSADOR?

"A. I WOULD SAY THAT THE SECURITY FORCES HAD DONE THE MAXIMUM AND WE DID OUR LEVEL BEST TO RESCUE HIM; UNFORTUNATELY OUR ENEMIES WHO ARE ALSO THE ENEMIES OF UNITED STATES WERE SUCCESSFUL AND THEY AIMED AT CREATING MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US WITH THE MURDER OF THE AMBASSADOR.

"Q. IS THE DISCONTINUATION OF US AID THE RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT?

"A. IF THIS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE CASE, THE US WOULD HAVE CUT ITS AID EARLIER. AS IT WAS CUT AFTER THIS INCIDENT, HOW COULD WE (OTHERWISE) INTERPRET IT?"

3. (C) COMMENT: TARAKI'S COMMENTS REFLECT THE WIDESPREAD BELIEF IN KABUL THAT THE REDUCTION IN US AID WAS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS. THERE IS ALSO A POSSIBLE

CONFIDENTIAL

UNSPOKEN IMPLICATION THAT THE KHALQIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTING AN AID CUTOFF BECAUSE OF THEIR OTHER POLICIES. HIS COMMENTS ABOUT A CONTINUING INVESTIGATION INTO THE INCIDENT ARE WELCOME NEWS, IF TRUE. UNTIL HE MADE THIS STATEMENT WE HAD BEEN UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT REGARDED THE CASE AS CLOSED.
AMSTUTZ